

Message Text

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INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 EUR-10

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PRS-01 DPW-01 DRC-01 /089 W
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O R 291045Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9431

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SAIGON 20128

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT NOVEMBER 22-28, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: CASUALTIES ROSE IN MR-1, ALTHOUGH CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL. THERE WERE SHELLINGS AND SKIRMISHINGS AT A NUMBER OF OPS ALONG THE RVNAF DEFENSIVE PERIMETER NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, AND AN UPSWING IN ACTIVITY TO THE SOUTH IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AS THE COMMUNISTS ATTEMPT TO RECOUP RECENT LOSSES OF RICE AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS IN THE FLOOD-RAVAGED SOUTHERN PROVINCES. THE FOCUS IN MR-2 IS ON THE HIGHLANDS, WHERE THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR EFFORT TO IMPROVE ARVN'S INTERIOR LOCS AND WHERE MAJOR TROOP REDEPLOYMENTS HAVE STRENGTHENED DEFENSES IN THESE BORDER PROVINCES, PARTICULARLY DARLAC AND QUANG DUC. IN THE LATTER, RANGERS REOCCUPIED DAK SONG ON NOVEMBER 28. NINH THUAN AND KHANH HOA RF WILL REPLACE THE ARVN FORCES TRANSFERRED INLAND FROM BINH DINH AND PHU YEN. THE STRUGGLE FOR RICE CONTINUES IN BINH THUAN. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-3 CONTINUED ON THE RISE. THE HEAVIEST RETALIATORY AIR STRIKES SINCE THE "CEASEFIRE" WERE UNLEASHED AGAINST COMMUNIST BASE AREAS NEAR THE CAMBODIAN BORDER. WITH THE ADVENT OF THE DRY SEASON, THE GVN IS BEGINNING CONSTRUCTION OF EXTENSIVE ANTI-TANK DITCHES ACROSS ITS NORTHERN PERIMETER FROM TAY NINH THROUGH BIEN HOA. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-4-- STILL CENTERED IN DINH TUONG AND VICINITY -- ROSE TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN A MONTH. IN DINH TUONG, ON NOVEMBER 20, ARVN 7TH DIVISION TROOPS KILLED AT LEAST 120 NVA. TERRITORIAL FORCES IN KIEN HOA, VINH BINH, AND VINH LONG CONTINUE ACTIVE IN MOBILE DEFENSE TO KEEP COMMUNIST UNITS OFF-BALANCE. A STATE OF FLUX AT ICCS HEADQUARTERS HAS HELD UP DISCUSSIONS ON BOTH INVESTIGATIONS AND THE BUDGET, WHILE REGIONAL TEAMS HAVE REMAINED LARGELY NON-FUNCTIONAL AS A RESULT OF INTERNAL DISAGREEMENT AND LACK OF DIRECTION FROM SAIGON. THOUGH FAILING TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING, TPJMC AND FPJMT DID MEET LAST WEEK DURING A BRIEF INTERLUDE IN THE TENSION: THIS WEEK THERE HAVE BEEN NO MEETINGS BY EITHER

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BODY, AS THE COMMUNISTS RESUMED THEIR BOYCOTTS IN PROTEST OF GVN RETALIATORY AIR STRIKES. END SUMMARY.

PART I: ICCS

1. PREOCCUPATION WITH HUNGARIAN ROTATION, THE HELATH OF AMBASSADOR KULAGA, THE ABSENCE ON LEAVE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL NUR, AND THE RECENT LEAVE OF AMBASSADOR SADRI IN HONG KONG HAVE PRECLUDED FURTHER ICCS MEETINGS TO COMPLETE DISCUSSION OF ICCS POLICY ON INVESTIGATIONS AND REVISED BUDGET PROPOSED BY NUR. PICTURE ON INVESTIGATIONS SEEN FROM REGIONAL LEVEL VARIES; INDODEL GENERALLY PUSHING EVERYWHERE FOR RESUMPTION FULL-SCALE INVESTIGATION ACTIVITY, HUNGDEL AND POLDEL UNIFORMLY RESISTING ON SUARIOUS TECHNICALITIES, IRDEL PERFORMING INCONSISTENTLY AND OFTEN

UNPREDICTABLY.

2. TWO VIETNAMESE DAILIES REPORTED THAT IRAN IS CONSIDERING WITHDRAWAL FROM ICCS. A GVN SOPKEWMAN VOLUNTEERED COMMENT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT IF IRAN IS CONSIDERING WITHDRAWAL, IT IS BECAUSE OF PRG POLICIES. IRDEL HAS DENIED THE REPORT AND WILL POSSIBLY ASK FOR FORMAL RETRACTION OF THE STORIES.

PART II TPJMC/FPJMT

THE INTERLUDE IN THE TENSION THAT HAD PREVAILED IN THE TPJMC SINCE LATE SEPTEMBER PROVED TO BE OF ONLY A WEEK'S DURATION AND ENDED ABRUPTLY WITH A RESUMPTION OF THE PRG BOYCOTTS. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT DURING THE DISCUSSIONS LAST WEEK ON THE PRG FIVE-POINT AND GVN SIX-POINT PROPOSALS ON IMPLEMENTING A CEASE-FIRE, THE ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN RELAXED AND AMICABLE. GVN TPJMC CHIEF, GENERAL HIEP, CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THIS IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE AND TO HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO DISCUSS RESUMPTION OF THE LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHTS AT TUESDAY'S CHIEF OF DELEGATION MEETING. THE PRG DELEGATION, HOWEVER, SENT A LETTER LATE MONDAY ANNOUNCING THAT IT WOULD BOYCOTT TUESDAY'S SESSION AND THIS WEEK'S SUB-COMMISSION MEETINGS IN PROTEST OF VNAF BOMBING RAIDS NOVEMBER 17-23, PARTICULARLY THAT OF NOVEMBER 23 AGAINST KATUM. GVN DELEGATION MEMBERS STATE THAT THIS PRG ACTION AND THE DESTRUCTION OF A TPJMC HELICOPTER (PART V, BELOW) "MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT" TO CONSIDER RESUMPTION OF THE FLIGHTS NOW. A SIMILAR PRG LETTER TO FPJMT PARTIES CAUSED HOST DRV
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TO CANCEL THE FPJMT MEETING OF THE SAME DATE. THIS WAS THE FIFTH TIME IN TWO MONTHS THAT THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS HAD EITHER CANCELLED OR WALKED OUT OF FPJMT MEETINGS.

PART III

1. COMMUNIST SPOKESMEN HAVE ACTIVE WEEK. OFFICIAL VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST SPOKESMEN BROKE A WEEK-LONG LULL, ACCUSING THE US AND GVN OF WIDE RANGING VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS. ON NOVEMBER 21 THE SPOKESMAN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE SOCALLED "PRG" CHARGED THAT THE US HAD, ON NOVEMBER 19, CONDUCTED AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OVER COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED PORTIONS OF QUANG TRI PROVINCE. THE SPOKESMAN MADE SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO ALLEGED OVERFLIGHTS ON NOVEMBER 21 AND 24, CHARGING VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 4 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. HANOI'S FOREIGN MINISTRY CHARGED THAT AN SR 71 AIRCRAFT HAD OVERFLOWN NGHE AN PROVINCE ON NOVEMBER 11. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THE PROTEST WAS MADE ONLY 17 DAYS LATER.

2. THE ON-GOING GVN BOMBING CAMPAIGN WAS STERNLY CONDEMNED. LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY REPORTED ON NOVEMBER 26 THAT BETWEEN NOVEMBER 17 AND 22 VNAF HAD FLOWN MORE THAN 100 SORTIES OVER BINH LONG PROVINCE. ALSO ON NOVEMBER 26 THE "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY CONDEMNED THE "SERIOUS ACTS OF WAR" COMMITTED BY THE GVN,

PARTICULARLY THE BOMBING OF KATUM ON NOVEMBER 23, WHICH HAD "KILLED AND WOUNDED TENS OF CIVILIANS". THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY, IN A SEPARATE STATEMENT THE NEXT DAY, EMPHASIZED THAT THE STEPPED-UP BOMBING "PROVES EVEN MORE CLEARLY THAT THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BE INVOLVED MILIRARILY AND TO INTERVENE IN SOUTH VIET-NAM" AND UNDERSCORING THE VIET CONG'S "LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO COUNTER ALL ACTS OF WAR" BY THE GVN.

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USLO PEKING

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CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

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3. THE "PRG" SPOKESMAN ALSO TOOK SAIGON TO TASK FOR ITS ALLEGED ATTEMPTS "TO IMPEDE ALL ACTIVITIES" OF THE ICCS. IN AN APPARENT RESPONSE TO GVN STATEMENTS ON COMMUNIST NON-COOPERATION, THE SPOKESMAN CLAIMED THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE TRIED THEIR BEST TO PROVIDE "NECESSARY MEANS" FOR THE COMMISSION, BUT THAT THE GVN HAD ENGAGED IN OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS SUCH AS BLOCKING EFFORTS BY ICCS DELEGATES TO VISIT DRV AND "PRG" MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES, REFUSING TO ALLOW HUNGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MARJAI TO VISIT VIET-NAM, PREVENTING THE ICCS FROM INVESTIGATING GVN VIOLATIONS, AND BOMBING THE ICCS TEAM SITE IN DUC CO. FURTHERMORE, THE SPOKESMAN CHARGED, THE GVN HAD ORGANIZED GROUPS "DISGUISED AS ICCS TEAMS TO INVESTIGATE FALSE CASES" AND HAD USED AIRCRAFT AND VEHICLES WITH ICCS MARKINGS TO CONDUCT RECONNAISSANCE AND RESUPPLY MISSIONS. ALL OF THE ABOVE ACTS WERE "MASTERMINDED" BY THE US, HE SAID. COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO GVN CHARGES THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO CRIPPLE THE ICCS FINANCIALLY.

4. THE GVN'S PERFORMANCE ON THE TPJMC WAS CONDEMNED BY THE "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN. IN A NOVEMBER 27 STATEMENT HE DEMANDED THAT THE GVN RESUME THE SAIGON-LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHTS. SUGGESTING, PERHAPS, THAT A RESUMPTION OF THE FLIGHTS MIGHT LEAD TO PROGRESS IN THE TWO-PARTY TALKS, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT VIET CONG COLONEL BUI THANH KIET WHO WAS "ON MISSION" IN LOC NINH HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO RETURN TO SAIGON.

PART IV MR-1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 84 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK, A DAILY AVERAGE OF 12. ALTHOUGH THIS IS A RELATIVELY LOW AVERAGE, CASUALTY FIGURES INDICATE THAT ENGAGEMENTS WERE FOUGHT WITH GREATER LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES
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THAN USUAL. GVN CASUALTIES: 69 KIA, 308 WIA. NVA/VC
LOSSES: 170 KIA, 6 RETURNEES.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG TRI AN ELEMENT OF THE 121ST RF BN WAS SHELLED, THE

FIRST SUCH INCIDENT IN THE MARINE AREA OF OPERATION SINCE SEPT. 11. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES REPORTED. I CORPS HAS NOT YET DIVINED AN EXPLANATION FOR THE ATTACK.

3. IN THUA THIEN FIGHTING INCREASED TO A MODERATE LEVEL AS THE ENEMY MADE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO DISLODGE ELEMENTS OF THE 3RD INF. REGT. FROM POSITIONS ESTABLISHED BY THEM OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS INSIDE THE EASTERN EDGE OF ENEMY BASE AREA 114 WEST OF HUE. BY THE END OF THE REPORTING WEEK FRIENDLY UNITS HAD LOST 4 SMALL OBSERVATION POSTS ON HILLS 85 AND 100 UNDER GROUND ATTACKS AND HEAVY MORTAR FIRE. ONE OP WAS RETAKEN BUT LOSGAAGAIN WITHIN HOURS. THE ENEMY ALSO SHELLED SEVERAL SMALL OP'S IN THE AO OF THE 54TH INF. REGT. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL MONTHS A SMALL UNIT CLASH OCCURRED IN THE AO OF THE 1ST INF. REGT. 12 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF HUE.

4. THE THUA THIEN NATIONAL POLICE COMMANDER REPORTS THE VIET CONG ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO RECONSTRUCT THEIR INFRA-STRUCTURE IN HUE AND THUA THIEN PROVINCE. HE BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 20 VCI CURRENTLY IN HUE WITH MEETING PLACES IN EACH OF THE THREE DISTRICTS.

5. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM BOTH SIDES WERE OCCUPIED WITH CLEANING UP FROM THE FLOOD AND ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS VERY LIMITED. GVN PROVINCE INTELLIGENCE FORESEES A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN SMALL SCALE ATTACKS IN THE NEAR FUTURE AS THE VC ATTEMPT TO REPLENISH RICE AND SUPPLIES LOST IN THE FLOOD.

6. IN QUANG TIN AND QUANG NGAI ENEMY ACTIVITY REBOUNDED FROM THE ALMOST TOTAL HALT CAUSED BY THE FLOODS. THE FIGHTING IN QUANG TIN INCREASED TO ITS NORMAL LOW LEVEL WITH OVER HALF OF THE REPORTED INCIDENTS CONSISTING OF MINE EXPLOSIONS.
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7. IN QUANG NGAI THE ENEMY AMBUSHED 2 RF COMPANIES WHICH WERE IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGING POSITIONS IN SON TINH DISTRICT. 26 RF WERE MIA AND 1 WAS WIA. THEY ALSO LAUNCHED A MORTAR AND GROUND ATTACK IN BINH DUC VILLAGE OF BINH SON DISTRICT, KILLING OR WOUNDING 16 SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS; 7 SOLDIERS WERE MIA. FRIENDLY FORCES ALSO INCREASED THEIR CONTACTS, CONCENTRATING THEIR EFFORTS IN WESTERN BINH SON AND FIGHTING FOR CONTROL OF HILL 252 IN NGHIA HANH DISTRICT WHICH THEY HAVE NOT YET RETAKEN FROM THE ENEMY.

8. QUANG NGAI GVN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT THE ENEMY HAS ORDERS TO INCREASE ITS MILITARY ACTIVITY AND TO MAKE A LARGER EFFORT TO GATHER RICE AND OTHER FOOD SUPPLIES. GVN G-2 EXPECTS THAT THE TEMPO OF ENEMY ACTIVITY WILL INCREASE UNTIL A HIGH POINT IS REACHED AROUND DECEMBER 2.

9. ICCS:

IN REGION II THE SUB-REGION TEAM, WHICH HAD MOVED TO DANANG
BECAUSE OF A FLOODED COMPOUND, HAS RETURNED TO HOI AN.

PART V MR-2

1. STATISTICAL SUMMARY: A TOTAL OF 111 INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED,
UP FROM 105 LAST WEEK. THEY WERE CONCENTRATED IN PLEIKU (34),
BINH DINH (27) AND QUANG DUC (26). RVNAF LISTED 31 KIA AND
149 MIA, DOWN FROM 54 AND 176. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE PUT AT
139 VERSUS 248 LAST WEEK. RVNAF CAPTURED 28 INDIVIDUAL AND 8
CREW-SERVED WEAPONS, WHILE REPORTING ONLY 3 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS
LOST. AIR STRIKES INCREASED FROM 242 TO 428: 275 IN QUANG DUC,
85 IN PLEIKU, 50 IN KONTUM, AND 18 IN BINH DINH.

2. MAJOR REDEPLOYMENTS: OVER THE PAST WEEK, EXTENSIVE RVNAF
REDEPLOYMENTS TOOK PLACE WITH THE NET RESULT OF STRENGTHENING
DEFENSES IN THE BORDER PROVINCES. THE 22ND RANGER GROUP MOVED
FROM PHU YEN TO KONTUM ON NOV 26-27. BINH DINH IS LOSING
THE LAST OF ITS ARVN TROOPS AS THE 40TH REGT OF THE 22ND
DIVISION BEGIN MOVING FROM BINH DINH TO KONTUM. THE REST OF
THE 22ND IS ALREADY IN PLEIKU WHERE ITS HEADQUARTERS WILL BE
ESTABLISHED. THE 44TH AND 45TH REGTS OF THE 23RD DIVISION,
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WHICH HAD BEEN IN KONTUM, ARE BEING TRANSFERRED ALONG WITH
THE ENTIRE DIVISION HEADQUARTERS TO BAN ME THUOT, THEIR OLD
HEADQUARTERS, WHENCE THEY WILL AID OPERATIONS IN QUANG DUC.
THE RVNAF INTENDS TO TRANSFER RF UNITS FROM NINH THUAN AND
KHANH HOA TO BINH DINH AND PHU YEN IN ORDER TO PARTIALLY COMPEN-
SATE FOR THEIR TROOP LOSSES.

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LIMDIS

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3. QUANG DUC: ON NOVEMBER 28, 96TH RANGER BATTALION CLEARED THE JUNCTION OF QL-14 AND LTL-8 AND REOCCUPIED DAK SONG PROPER. ENEMY UNITS REMAIN IN SURROUNDING AREAS. THE 53RD REGIMENT MOVED INTO DAK SONG FROM THE SOUTH, BUT A RESUPPLY CONVOY FROM BAN ME THUOT WAS UNABLE TO GET THROUGH TO GIA NGHIA AND HAS RETURNED TO DAK SONG. OTHER RVNAF UNITS ARE STILL SOUTH OF BU PRANG. FALLOUT FROM THE INITIAL DEFEAT AT BU PRANG AND DAK SONG CONTINUES. GENERAL TOAN PLANS COURTS MARTIAL FOR A NUMBER OF OFFICERS WHO RAN FROM THE ENEMY. LACK OF ATTENTION TO THE WOUNDED AND DEAD IN BATTLE IS A MAJOR COMPLAINT OF THOSE RF WHO SURVIVED. INITIAL RF LOSSES HAVE NOW BEEN REDUCED TO ABOUT 300 AS ADDITIONAL MIA'S RETURNED TO FRIENDLY LINES.

4. PLEIKU/KONTUM: ON NOV 27 AN ENGAGEMENT SOUTHWEST OF PLEI BLANG 3 RESULTED IN ONE RVNAF KILLED AND 18 WOUNDED, WHILE ENEMY LOSSES WERE PUT AT 20 KIA. ALTERNATE ROUTES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PLEIKU AND KONTUM HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. QL-14 C AND QL-14 B, BOTH OF WHICH WERE RECENTLY IMPROVED TO THE POINT WHERE THEY CAN TAKE TANKS AND SUPPLY TRUCKS, LEAD FROM THE PLEI MRONG AREA NORTHEAST TO JOIN QL-14 SOUTH OF KONTUM CITY. THE ROADS WILL SERVE AS INTERIOR SUPPLY LINES FOR ARVN, RF AND RANGER POSITIONS ALONG THE DAK BLA RIVER LINE AND QL-14. THE CORPS G-4 STATES THAT SHORTAGE OF BULLDOZER SPARE PARTS HAS SLOWED CONSTRUCTION OF THESE ROADS, AS WELL AS OTHERS BEING CLEARED IN QUANG DUC TO PROVIDE SURFACE ACCESS AND SUPPORT TO ARVN FORCES AROUND DAK SONG AND BU PRANG.

5. BINH DINH: MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS AT A LOW EBB. THE MAIN CONCERN IS THE DEPARTURE OF THE 40TH REGT FOR KONTUM. TO COVER THIS LOSS, THE PROVINCE IS REDEPLOYING HIS REMAINING RF AND RANGER BATTALIONS, AND EXPECTS TO RECEIVE 300 RF TROOPS FROM KHANH HOA. WHEN THE 40TH WAS STILL IN BINH DINH'S DISPOSAL, THE DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR SECURITY TOLD OUR CONSUL THAT GVN CONFIDENTIAL

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FORCES COULD HOLD OUT A WEEK OR TWO AGAINST A MAJOR ENEMY ATTACK BEFORE REINFORCEMENTS WOULD BE REQUIRED.

6. OTHER: IN BINH THUAN, THE RICE WAR CONTINUES TO KEEP HOSTILITIES AT A LEVEL WHICH IS RELATIVELY HIGH FOR THE PROVINCE, THOUGH MINOR IN REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE. FLOOD DAMAGE IN PHU YEN CONTINUES TO DAMPEN FIGHTING, THOUGH ACCORDING TO PERSISTENT REPORTS, THE COMMUNISTS ARE POSITIONING THEMSELVES IN AREAS AROUND TUY HOA, HIEU XUONG, AND DONG XUAN DISTRICTS IN ORDER TO SEIZE THE 30 PERCENT OF THE RICE CROP WHICH SURVIVED THE FLOOD. THE COMMUNISTS ATTACKED THREE GVN INSTALLATIONS DURING THE WEEK: ON THE 23RD, PLEIKU AIRFIELD WAS ROCKETED; ON THE 26TH, AN AMMO DUMP IN CAM RANH WAS ROCKETED; AND ON THE 27TH, SAPPERS INFILTRATED THE PHAN THIET (BINH THUAN) AIRFIELD AND COMPLETELY DESTROYED A HELICOPTER OF THE TWO-PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION. MILITARY COMMANDERS IN THE REGION HAVE BEEN ORBIRED TO CUT THEIR FUEL CONSUMPTION BY 25 PERCENT FOR NOVEMBER. CUTS FOR DECEMBER ARE ANTICIPATED, BUT HAVE NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED AS FAR AS WE KNOW.

7. ICCS: ICCS INACTIVITY WAS DRAMATICALLY ILLUSTRATED BY THEIR FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE THE ROCKETING OF THE PLEIKU AIRFIELD, RIGHT NEXT TO THE TRUCE REGION 3 HEADQUARTERS COMPOUND. THE CHIEF INDONESIAN DELEGATE SAID HE HAD PRESSED FOR AN OFFICIAL REPORT, BUT POLISH AND HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM RESULTED IN THE DECISION THAT EACH DELEGATION WOULD SEND ITS OWN REPORT TO ITS NATIONAL DELEGATIONS IN SAIGON. IN PHAN THIET, THE CAPITAL OF TRUCE REGION 4, THE IRANIAN CHIEF DELEGATE (COL KHATIR) HAS CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF STANDING COMPLAINTS SOUGHT BY HIS INDO-NESEAN COLLEAGUE LAST WEEK, THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS, WHO PREVIOUSLY REFUSED TO INVESTIGATE WITHOUT A PRG-WRITTEN GUARANTEE OF SECURITY

IN CONTESTED AREAS, NOW REFUSE TO INVESTIGATE UNLESS THE ENTIRE INVESTIGATING TEAM IS ACCOMPANIED BY A PRG LIAISON OFFICER. KHATIR CABLED THE ICCS CHAIRMAN IN SAIGON (AN INDONESIAN LAST WEEK) AND GOT PERMISSION TO INVESTIGATE WITHOUT A PRG LIAISON OFFICER. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS WOULD STILL NOT COOPERATE. DISCOURAGED, COLONEL KHATIR SAID HE BELIEVES THE STALEMATE WILL CONTINUE INDEFINITELY, AND CONSEQUENTLY FAVORS IRAN PULLING OUT OF THE "DEAD" ICCS NOW.

PART VI MR-3

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1. PAST SEVEN DAYS WITNESSED A CONTINUED INCREASE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 WITH 153 INCIDENTS REPORTED COMPARED WITH 133 LAST WEEK. THERE WERE 47 GROUND ATTACKS, 37 ABF'S, TWO COMBINED GROUND/ABF'S, 39 MININGS AND 27 MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS. GVN CASUALTIES ROSE FROM 155 LAST WEEK TO 212 (57 KIA, 155 WIA) WITH 7 MIA. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE SET AT 70 KIA AND TWO CIA. THESE FIGURES REFLECT INCREASE IN SIZE AND INTENSITY OF ENGAGEMENTS. ALL PROVINCES REPORTED INCIDENTS WITH BINH DUONG FOR THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE WEEK SETTING THE HIGHEST NUMBER (25), FOLLOWED BY HAU NGHIA (24), BIEN HOA (21), AND PHUOC TUY (16). THERE WERE 16 RALLIERS AND TWO ESCAPEES.

2. THE HEAVIEST AIR RAIDS SINCE THE JANUARY 28 CEASE-FIRE WERE LAUNCHED DURING PAST WEEK AGAINST COMMUNIST POSITIONS IN AREAS ADJACENT TO THE CAMBODIAN BORDER. ACCORDING TO MR 3 HQ, ALMOST SIX HUNDRED SORTIES HAVE BEEN FLOWN BY VNAF SINCE THE NOV. 6 COMMENCE

-
MENT OF THESE ATTACKS, WHICH GVN SPOKESMEN STATE ARE IN RETALIATION FOR PRG ATTACKS AGAINST PLEIKU AND BORDER BASE CAMPS IN LOWER MR 2. ON NOV. 23 ALONE, OVER ONE HUNDRED STRUCK NVA/VC INSTALLATIONS AROUND KATUM, TAY NINH PROVINCE.

3. COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS WERE HIGH WITH SEVEN INCIDENTS REPORTED. THREE HAMLET CHIEFS WERE ASSASSINATED IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS IN LONG AN AND BINH DUONG PROVINCES. EARLY EVENING NOV. 23, THREE NVA/VC DISGUISED AS RVNAF SOLDIERS AND CARRYING M 16 RIFLES ENTERED CHANH LUU (H) IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE AND KILLED THE HAMLET CHIEF. THIS INCIDENT SUBSTANTIATES REPORTS OF ENEMY INTENTIONS TO USE FRIENDLY FORCE MILITARY UNIFORMS TO INFILTRATE INTO POPULATION CENTERS.

4. WITH ARRIVAL OF DRY SEASON, GVN AUTHORITIES ARE ACTING TO MEET COMMUNIST TANK THREAT. ELABORATE PLANS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP REGION WIDE TO PROVIDE ANTI-TANK DITCHES (TRAPS) 4 METERS WIDE BY 2 METERS DEEP TO PROTECT POPULATED HAMLETS. TAY NINH WILL HAVE 40 KMS. OF TANK TRAPS, BINH DUONG 28 KMS. AND BIEN HOA PROVINCE OVER 100 KMS.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SPC-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 EUR-10

IO-03 L-02 OMB-01 NEA-06 PM-03 AID-10 USIE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 DPW-01 DRC-01 /089 W
----- 113632

O R 291045Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9434

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART VII MR-4

1. OVERALL ACTIVITY: MILIRARY ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA REACHED THE HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE LATE OCTOBER, WITH A TOTAL OF 369 VC/NVA INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED BY MR 4 (289 LAST WEEK). GROUND ATTACKS INCREASED TO 46 (27 LAST WEEK), AND ATTACKS BY FIRE INCREASED TO 208 (172 LAST WEEK, 103 TWO WEEKS AGO). GVN KILLED DROPPED TO 139 (158 LAST WEEK), BUT WOUNDED INCREASED TO 730 (613 LAST WEEK). THERE WERE 57 MISSING IN ACTION (56 LAST WEEK). THE GVN LOST 4 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS (1 LAST WEEK) AND 148 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS (140 LAST WEEK). CLAIMED VC/NVA LOSSES DROPPED TO 425 KILLED (502 LAST WEEK), 21 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (11 LAST WEEK, 42 TWO WEEKS AGO). THE VC/NVA REPORTEDLY LOST 7 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS (14 LAST WEEK) AND 140 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS (127 LAST WEEK) TO THE GVN. DINH TUONG CONTINUED AS THE FOCAL AREA OF DELTA FIGHTING. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF RENEWED NVA INFILTRATION ACTIVITY ON ROUTE 1-C IN THE WESTERN DELTA.

2. VC/ NVA HIGH POINT AND MAJOR GVN VICTORY IN DINH TUONG: FURTHER DETAILIES HAVE BECOME AVAILABLE ON A MAJOR GVN VICTORY IN SAM GIANG DISTRICT ON DINH TUONG ON NOV 20(CAN THO 0839): ACCORDING TO THE GVN 12TH REGIMENT COMMANDER, AT LEAST 120 VC/ NVA WERE KILLED, PRESUMABLY FROM THE DT-1 DIVISION, WHILE THE GVN LOST JUST 17 KILLED. A COMMAND -DETONATED MINE ON ROUTE 29 NORTH OF CAI LAY EARLY ON NOV 23 KILLED ONE ARMY OFFICER AND THREE CIVILIAN OFFICIALS, WOULDNEDE THE COMMANDER, DEPUTY COM-MANDER AND OPERATIONS OFFICER OF AN ARVN BATTALION, AND MADE THE ROAD UNSERVICEABLE UNTIL THE EARLY AFTERNOON.

3. MINOR HIGH POINT IN VINH LONG: BEFORE DAWN ON NOV 19, LOCAL VC UNITS - PROBABLY HAVING MOVED NORTH FROM THE VINH LONG-VINH BINH BORDER AREA-STAGED THREE SEPARATE ATTACKS IN CENTRAL VINH LONG. FIVE MORTAR ROUNDS WERE FOLLOWED BY A SAPPER ATTACK
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ON THE REAR BASE OF RF BATTALIONS NORTH OF THE MANG THIT CANAL IN SOUTHERN MINH DUC DISTRICT. AT THE SAME TIME, 43 MORTAR ROUNDS HIT THE MANG THIT SENSITIVE ZONE HEADQUARTERS NEARBY AND AT 0500

50 MORTAR ROUNDS HIT THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS. THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S PLAN OF RECENT MONTHS TO CONTAIN THE VC MAIN FORCE UNITS SOUTH OF THE MANG THIT CANAL HAS THUS SUFFERED A SETBACK. OUR PROVINCE REP REPORTS A TOTAL OF 39 INCIDENTS RECORDED BY SECTOR DURING THE WEEK (UP FROM 24 LAST WEEK), OF WHICH NO LESS THA

28 RESULTED FROM GVN INITIATED OPERATIONS DESIGNED TO PREVENT ANY SIGNIFICANT CONCENTRATION OF VC UNITS FOR AN OFFENSIVE.

4. GVN INITIATIVE IN VINH BINH: A MAJOR OPERATION INVOLVING FOUR RF BATTALIONS IN VINH BINH BEGAN ON NOVEMBER 22 IN NORTH-EASTERN CAU KE DISTRICT, DIRECTED AGAINST THE VC/NVA 312 BATTALION OF THE D-3 REGIMENT. BY NOV 25 THERE WERE REPORTEDLY 30 VC KILLED. A FOLLOW-UP OPERATION IN TIEU CAN DISTRICT ON NOV 25 HOWEVER FAILED TO CONTACT THE 312TH, BUT DID RESULT IN 4 LOCAL VC KILLED 4 CAPTURED AND A 10 BED HOSPITAL UNCOVERED. OUR PROVINCE REP REPORTS THAT 22 OF 32 INCIDENTS DURING THE WEEK GREW OUT OF GVN INITIATED OPERATIONS. THERE WERE ONLY 2 VC GROUND ATTACKS AND NO ATTACKS BY FIRE.

5. CONTINUED GVN ADVANCE IN THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AND SIMULTANEOUS NVA INFILTRATION IN KIEN GIANG: ARVN OFFICERS NOW ESTIMATE THAT LESS THAN A BATTALION OF NVA TROOPS FROM THE 101-D REGIMENT ARE STILL ON GIAI MOUNTAIN IN CHAU DOC, WHERE A BATTALION OF THE 16TH REGIMENT OF THE 9TH DIVISION AND LOCAL REF HAVE REPLACED THE RANGERS. OPERATIONS CONTINUE ON CO TO MOUNTAIN NEARBY TO CLEAR OUT NVA ELEMENTS REMAINING THERE. THE NVA IN THE AREA ARE REPORTEDLY NOW LARGELY ACROSS THE BORDER IN CAMBODIA OR IN NEARBY KIEN GIANG PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO SECTOR INTELLIGENCE, A NEW GROUP OF SOME 300 NVA INFILTRATORS WITH TWO 12.8 MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS CROSSED INTO VIET-NAM FROM CAMBODIA VIA THE NORTHWEST EXTREMITY OF CHAU DOC PROVINCE ON NOV 25. IN KIEN TAN DISTRICT OF KIEN GIANG, TWO CAPTURED NVA LIEUTENENTS INDICATED THEY WERE PART OF A GROUP OF 50 NVA INFILTRATORS RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM CAMBODIA WITH ANOTHER 200 MEN OF THEIR UNIT STILL IN CAMBODIA. THE PROVINCE CHIEF HAS TAKEN ADDITIONAL STEPS TO BLOCK INFILTRATION ROUTE 1C.

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6. MORTARING IN CHUONG THIEN: IN CHUONG THIEN THERE WERE 72 INCIDENTS, INCLUDING 3 GROUND ATTACKS AND 45 ATTACKS BY FIRE. SEVERAL VILLAGES IN KIEN HUNG DISTRICT NORTH OF VI THANH, WERE REPEATEDLY SHELLED. THE ARVN 21ST DIVISION HQ, KIEN LONG DISTRICT TOWN, VI THANH AND HOA LUU VILLAGES WEST OF VI THANH WERE ALSO SHELLED.

7. ELSEWHERE IN THE DELTA, KIEN HOA REPORTS A CONTINUED HIGH INCIDENT RATE, BUT OVER HALF OF THESE HAVE RESULTED FROM GVN OPERATIONS. TERRORISM OF ALL TYPES IN THE PROVINCE CONTINUES HIGH, CONCENTRATED IN MO CAY, THANH PHU AND HUONG MY DISTRICTS. IN KIEN PHONG, THE RICE WAR GOES ON. THREE OUTPOSTS IN THE PROVINCE WERE OVERRUN DURING THE WEEK 31 PSDF WERE ABDUCTED AND 31 WEAPONS CAPTURED BY THE VC IN CAO LANH DISTRICT ON NOV 23. A SPECIAL EFFORT TO ELIMINATE VCI IN BAC LIEU IN NOVEMBER HAS SO FAR RESULTED IN 8 VCI KILLED. MILITARY ACTIVITY IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN BAC LIEU IN COMING WEEKS WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAIN RICE CROP.

8. GVN ACTIVITIES:

A. GVN PERSONNEL AND AREA CHANGES: 9TH DIVISION: OUTGOING MG TRAN BA DI, INCOMING BG HUYNH VAN LAC -- DEPUTY CORPS COMMANDER FOR OPERATIONS: OUTGOING BG CHUONG DZENH QUAY, INCOMING MG TRAN BA DI -- CORPS CHIEF OF STAFF: OUTGOING BG HUYNH VAN LAC, INCOMING BG CHUONG DZENH QUAY -- SA DEC PROVINCE CHIEF: OUTGOING COLONEL HUYNH NGOC DIEP, INCOMING LTC VUONG VAN TRO -- PHONG DINH PROVINCE CHIEF: OUTGOING COLONEL LE NGOC DAY, INCOMING COLONEL HUYNH NGOC DIEP. THE

9TH DIVISION HAS ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE AREA OF OPERATIONS FORMERLY UNDER THE 44TH STZ, AS WELL AS BORDER AREAS OF KIEN GIANG AND KIEN TUONG PROVINCES (CAN THO 0842). HOWEVER, THE 44TH STZ HEQ WILL BE RETAINED SO THAT AN EXPERIENCED STAFF WILL BE AVAILABLE TO RESUME CONTROL OF THE BORDER AREA IN THE EVENT THE 9TH DIVISION MUST BE DEPLOYED ELSEWHERE.

B. ALL GVN POWS IN CAN THO: ALL VC/NVA POWS OF THE GVN, TOTALLING 642, ARE NOW CONCENTRATED NEAR CAN THO, ACCORDING TO THE CAMP DIRECTOR. THE NEXT ICRC INSPECTION WILL BE ON NOVEMBER 29-30(CAN THO 0845).

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Draft Date: 29 NOV 1973
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DANANG
PARIS

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TEHRAN
TOKYO
VIENTIANE
WARSAW
WELLINGTON
PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
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